WITTON CASTLE *County of* DURHAM.

WITTON Caſtle ſtands on the South ſide of the River Wear at its conflux with the Lynburn. It was built about the 11, Hen. IV. anno 1410, as appears from the following licence for its conſtruction, preſerved in the Archives of the See of Durham, among the Rolls of Biſhop Langley, marked A. No. 32. That deed recites, that this building was begun before; but as no licence had been previouſly obtained, it is probable the Biſhop put a ſtop to its progreſs, as being done in contempt of his Authority without his licence firſt had.

" THOMAS Dei gratia Dunelmenſis epiſcopus ſalutem. Sciatis quod cum Radulphus de Eure Miles nuper manerium ſuum de Witton cum muro de petra et calce includere, et manerium illud batellare, kirnellare, et turillare, ac fortallicium inde facere incipit, licentia noſtra aut prædeceſſorum noſtrorum ſuper hoc non obtenta; nos de gratia noſtra ſpeciali pardonavimus tranſgreſſionem factam in hac parte: et ulterius conceſſimus et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et ſucceſſoribus noſtris prefato Radulpho, quod ipſe manerium predictum cum muro de petra et calce includere, et manerium illud caſtellare, kirnellare, et turillare, ac fortallicium inde facere poſſit, et tenere ſibi et hæredibus ſuis imperpetuum abſque impedimento noſtri vel ſucceſſorum noſtrorum juſticiarium, eſcaetorum, vice-comitum, aut aliorum ballivorum ſeu miniſtrorum noſtrorum, vel ſucceſſorum noſtrorum quorumcumque, imperpetuum. In cujus rei teſtimonium, &c. Dat, &c. viceſſimo tertio die Septembris anno Pontificatus noſtri quinto."

Per breve de privato ſigil'o.

Tranſlation.

" THOMAS, by the grace of God Biſhop of Durham ſendeth greeting. Know ye, that whereas Ralph de Eure, knight, did begin to incloſe his manor of Witton with a wall of lime and ſtone, and to embattle, crenellate, tourillate, and erect a fortreſs on the ſaid manor, not having firſt obtained either our licence or that of our predeceſſors; we, out of our ſpecial grace, have pardoned that tranſgreſſion; and moreover, have granted and given licence, for us and our ſucceſſors, to the ſaid Ralph, to incloſe his manor aforeſaid with a wall of lime and ſtone, and to caſtellate, crenellate, tourillate, and build a fortreſs thereon; to have and to hold the ſame to himſelf and his heirs for ever, without impediment from us, or our ſucceſſors, our juſtices, eſcheators, ſheriffs, or other bailiffs or officers whatſoever, or thoſe of our ſucceſſors for ever. In witneſs whereof, &c. Given the 23d. day of September, in the fifth year of our Pontificate,

By writ of Privy Seal.

WITTON CASTLE *County of* DURHAM.

THIS was the baronial Caſtle of the Lords de Eures, a family of ancient note and eminence in the County, deſcended from the Lords of Clavering and Warkworth; and by the female line, from the Veſcies and Attons.

IN the reign of Henry VIII. Sir Ralph Eures was lord warden of the Marches, and did ſo many valiant exploits againſt the Scots at Tiviotdale, that the King gave him a grant of all the lands he could win from them; wherefore he invaded *Scotland*; but engaging with the Earl of Arran at Hallidown Field, was there ſlain, together with Lord Ogle, and many other perſons of note. William Eure, brother of the ſecond Ralph Lord Eure, was a colonel in the army of King Charles I. and was killed at the battle of Marſton Moor, in Yorkſhire, A. D. 1645. The laſt Lord Eure, who was living A. D. 1674, leaving no iſſue male, the family became extinct.

AT the time of the civil wars, this caſtle was in the hands of Sir William Darcy. He being a royaliſt, it was beſieged and taken by Sir Arthur Haſlerig, governor of Auckland caſtle, who ſequeſtered the goods, but did not deſtroy the building; which was afterwards in part demoliſhed by James Lord Darcy of Havan, in the kingdom of Ireland, about the year 1689; who took away the lead, timber, and chimney-pieces, to Sadberye, near Richmond in the county of York, with deſign to build another houſe there; but the greateſt part of theſe materials were afterwards ſold by auction for much leſs than the Sum paid for their pulling down and removal from Witton thither.

THIS Caſtle is now (1783) the property of John Cuthbert Eſq.

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